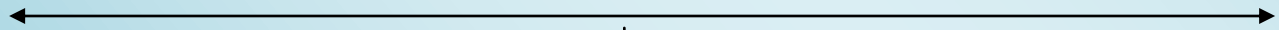


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## CHATRAPATI SHAHU MAHARAJA AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Chatrapati Shahumaharaja was one of the greatest king of India. He ruled Kolhapur during 1874 BC to 1922 BC. He was very daring and knowledgeable person. He doing so many works for common people. He gave more performance to non-Brahmins people. He known for his social reforms and as well as he doing well works in the field of Education, Economic, Political & Social equality. In his time so many controversies were started but he manage all problems very well and take his kingdom in the high position.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Chatrapati Shahu Maharaja of Kolhapur, the most popular Maratha King with a revolutionary vision. He was a social reformer to work for rural and low-caste indigent by providing them free along with hostel facility in Kolhapur state. Even in today's era, his foresight can be seen everywhere while considering development of Kolhapur, Maharashtra and India as well, this website is a small initiative to spread the greatness of the visionary king.

### **EARLY LIFE**

Shahu Maharaja born on 26 Jun 1874, as 'yeshwantro Ghatage' his mother name was Radhabai, she was daughter of 'Mudhol Raja' in 1891 Shahu Maharaja Married Lakshmibai and he had Children.

### **Memorable Speech by Shahu Maharaja:**

Shahu Maharaja Made a memorable speech in 1919 about explained the basic principles of his life. "my prince", "has been to take care of the weak among the subjects more than the strong their condition has from the first, appealed to me personally and it has been one aim of my administration to do my level best to cure the evil with this end in view I have been laboring hard for the last twenty five years".

### Social and Religious Reforms:

Shahu Maharaja is credited with doing much to further the lot of the lower castes and indeed this assessment is warranted. He did much to take education and employment available to all. He not only subsidized education in his state, eventually providing free education to all but also open several hostels in Kolhapur. There by face-lifting the education of the rural and low-caste indigent. His educational institutions include Victoria Maratha Boarding School, Miss Clarke Boarding and Deccan Rayat Aunsta. He also ensured buildable employment for students these educated. Thereby creating one of the earliest affirmative action programs in history. He started spinning mill in 1906 to proved employment many of these measures were effected in the year 1902. Rajaram College was built by Shahu Maharaja and named after him.

### Vedokta Controversy:

In Shahu Maharaja's time Kolhapur's population is predominantly Hindu and also Included Lingayat, Jain, Muslim & Christian communities. In 1881 the distribution of population among the various groups was as follows.

Hindus	:	719164
Jains	:	46732
Muslims	:	33022
Christians	:	1253
Others	:	181

This is based on the study sponsored by the German Research Council West Germany.

In this Period the Brahmin caste was dominant. Once the Brahmin priests of the royal family requested to perform the rites of the non-Brahmins in accordance with the Vedic hymns, he took the daring step of removing the priests and appointment a young Maratha as the religious teacher of the non –Brahmins, with the title of 'Kshatra Jagadguru' [the world teacher of Kshatriyas]. This was known as the Vedokta Controversy. It brought a hornet's nest about his ears but he was not the man a retrace his step in the face of opposition he soon became the leader of the non-Brahmin movement & united the Marathas under is banner.

### **Built the first Dam in India:**

Once the late pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said “Dams are not just construction of cement and concrete, but in fact are places of pilgrimage in the modern India” this was not the first vision towards this development as Kolhapur’s King Shahu Maharaja realized it almost 100 years before and decided to construct Radhanagari Dam on 18 Feb 1907 which is considered the first Dam in India.

### **Shahu Maharaja’s Economic Idea and Policies:**

During the 19<sup>th</sup> and first three decades of the twentieth century, public authorities adopted laissez faire philosophy as the basis of their economic policies it was the result of the ideas of classical economists, like Adam /smith, J.B.Say, J.S.Mill, Devid Ricardo and other pertaining to –

- Automatic full employment of factors of production.
- Perfect competition among buyers and sellers.
- Unsuitability of Government body to perform economic functions so the state incurred expenses on performing “protective functions” and certain public works of “common weal” out of revenues obtained from regressive taxes and fees and fine, public borrowing during peace time were not permitted as they were thought to promote unproductive public expenditure and reduce the stock of capital available for investment in the private sector.

### **HONOURS**

- ❖ Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India (GCSI), 1895
- ❖ King Edward VII Coronation Medal, 1902
- ❖ Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO), 1903
- ❖ Hon. LLD (Cantabrigian), 1903
- ❖ Delhi Durbar Gold Medal, 1903
- ❖ King George V Coronation Medal, 1911
- ❖ Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire (GCIE), 1911
- ❖ Delhi Durbar Gold Medal, 1911

**CONCLUSION:**

All this would show what a man his highness really is shahu maharaja made a most sincere and serious effort to establish a society in which not only liberty is valued but equality and Fraternity are insisted upon.

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